

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Syria	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	25X1A
SUBJECT	Communist Activity in Homs	DATE DISTR.	10 August 1953	
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		REFERENCES		

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1. During the first ten days of July 1953, the Communists in Homs concentrated on efforts to disrupt plans for the Syrian constitutional referendum and presidential election on 10 July.
2. A communist meeting was held on 2 July in the home of Nuri Hajju in Homs. Among those attending were 'Abd-al-Hakim 'Abd-al-Samad, Khalid Kalu, Maurice Salibah, Riyad Huwayla, Fihmi Qa'i, and 'Abd-al-Dayim Atasi.
3. Communist tracts, which came from Aleppo, were distributed widely in Homs on 3 July. The same day, communist slogans were written on walls in Homs by students.
4. The evening of 3 July, a communist meeting was held in the home of Riyad Huwayla, where it was decided that 'Abd-al-Hakim 'Abd-al-Samad, Nuri Hajju, Khalid Banna, and Badr-al-Din Siba'i would represent the Communist Party at the National Rally to be held in Homs on 4 July to protest the procedure established for the referendum and election.
5. The morning of 8 July, Communists participated in a demonstration staged in Homs by elements of outlawed Syrian political parties. The Army intervened and arrested several demonstrators, but no Communists were seized. The same evening, a bomb was hurled at the Serail in Homs. An Armenian Communist from Aleppo was arrested and charged with this act.
6. On 9 July, during a search of homes of Communists in Homs, the communist lawyer 'Isam Akhras was arrested when a quantity of dynamite was found in his home.
7. On election day, 10 July, Communists joined with representatives of other outlawed political parties before the polls in Homs to urge voters not to cast ballots. The police were able to prevent disorder.

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